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# **EXHIBIT “A”**

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**JAN 12 2005**

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In re application of:  
Dutta**

**Serial No.: 09/817,867**

**Filed: 3/26/2001**

**Title: System and Method for Placement of  
User-Negotiated Security Features  
on Ticket Items**

§ **Group Art Unit: 2134**  
§  
§  
§ **Examiner: Tran, Tongoc**  
§  
§ **Attorney Docket No. AUS920010143US1**  
§  
§  
§  
§

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Rabindranath Dutta declares as follows:

1. I am an Applicant for the patent application entitled "System and Method for Placement of User-Negotiated Security Features on Ticket Items," Serial No. 09/817,867, filed 3/26/2001, and an inventor of the subject matter described and claimed therein.
2. Prior to January 19, 2001, I conceived of, in the United States of America, the invention described and claimed in the subject application. I further showed diligence from the date of conception to the filing date of the subject application. Conception and diligence to filing is evidenced by the following:
  - a) I submitted IBM Invention Disclosure Form No. AUS8-2000-0652, attached as Exhibit A hereto, which describes the invention described and claimed in the subject application.

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Atty Ref. No. IBM-1015

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- b) Each of the dates deleted from Exhibit A is prior to January 19, 2001.
- c) I worked diligently with a patent attorney in order to file the subject application on March 26, 2001.
3. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful and false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under § 1001 of Title 18 of United States Code and that such willful and false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-referenced application and any patent issuing therefrom.

FURTHER DECLARANT SAYETH NOT.

Rabindranath Dutta

Rabindranath Dutta

Date:

January 11, 2005